



## 2027 MFSR RILEY'S RIDE INFORMATION SHEET

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2027**

Welcome to the 2027 Riley's Ride run by the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival.

We will be retracing the final journey of Jack Riley, The Man from Snowy River. You may catch up with old mates and hopefully make some new ones whilst having a great time and enjoying the scenery of the amazing Upper Murray region!

### EVENT DETAILS:

**IN 2027 MFSRBF AND RILEY'S RIDE WILL BE ACCEPTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST [VIA THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER WEBSITE ON SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026](#)**

To ensure everyone has a chance to experience this historical ride, MFSRBF has created a repeat rider clause.

50 riders will be accepted annually for Riley's ride, only 10 of which can have experienced the ride prior. Where more than 10 express interest a ballot may need to occur to determine who takes the 10 places

### YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN HORSE!!

The annual ride is held to commemorate Jack Riley's life, the part he played in the early days of the Upper Murray and to applaud the efforts of those men who selflessly sought to rescue him under hard and trying conditions. Jack and his meeting with Banjo Patterson is reputed to be the inspiration which led to the penning of "The Man from Snowy River," Banjo's epic ballad. Riley's Ride was first instigated in 1989 and offers spectacular views and the chance to meet people from far and wide who come from many different walks of life, share a love of the Australian Bush, and have a deep respect for the pioneering families of the area. It is a challenging ride and a character-building experience.

### RIDER BREAK DOWN

**To express your interest, you must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) on the website when opened on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. This EOI is not a guarantee you will have a place on the ride. A selection panel will review the applications and successful riders will be notified by the end of June 2026.**

### 2027 ENTRY FEE:

**Riders \$2500.00**

**Support crew \$750.00** (Support crew costs include full catering for the ride. There is an expectation that support crew will assist with set up and pack up of the camps)

ALL riders must have a support person as unsupported places are no longer being offered. The support persons name MUST be confirmed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026.

If you are offered a Riley's ride position, a \$300 deposit is to be paid for 2027 Riley's Ride by July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This deposit is non-refundable once you have completed Application Form online. Invoices for the remaining amount

will be sent out in August 2026, with **final payment due on 30 September 2026**. If you have not paid the outstanding amount by 30 September 2026, your place will be offered to a rider on the Reserve List.

Merchandise lists will be sent to successful applicants with the option to order and prepay. Due to insufficient space to safely store items it is unlikely we will have excess stock to sell on the ride.

### **CANCELLATION FEES:**

It is recommended that all applicants read the cancellation fee section carefully. MFSRBF and Riley's ride reserve the right to uphold our cancellation fees policy below.

### **CANCELLATION FEES POLICY**

All Cancellations must be notified in writing to [rileysride@bushfestival.com.au](mailto:rileysride@bushfestival.com.au)

Rider positions are Nontransferable

It is a decision of the MFSRBF whether a replacement position is offered from the waiting list. No correspondence will be entered into by Riders.

Under extenuating circumstances where there is cancellation with certificate of injury / illness (VET /GP), the rider will be offered a transfer to the following year. Where this is declined, the cancellation policy applies.

Where MFSRBF determines that riders on the waiting list have not maintained horse/rider fitness, other riders may be considered. This will be determined by the MFSRBF.

### **RIDERS**

**\$300 DEPOSIT IS NON-REFUNDABLE ONCE YOUR REGISTRATION IS ACCEPTED AND YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR COMPLETED ONLINE APPLICATION FORM.**

Once you are registered, the following cancellation fee structure applies:

- Cancellation fee 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September = 30% of ride entry fee
- 
- Cancellation fee 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December = 50% of ride entry fee
- Cancellation fee 31<sup>st</sup> December - 31<sup>st</sup> March = 80% of ride entry fee
- Cancellation fee after 31<sup>st</sup> March = 100% of ride entry fee

### **SUPPORT CREW**

It is the responsibility of the rider to arrange their 1 support person. Where a support person needs to pull out, the rider must notify in writing and have a suitable replacement.

The support person must be over 18years and be experienced with towing a float on unsealed roads and steep hills.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

All horses and riders must be accustomed to steep mountain trail riding with no fear of heights, water or bush terrain. Riders must be able to confidently control their horse in a large group environment and cope with stepping over fallen logs, river crossings, boggy conditions, heavily timbered country, and wide-open spaces. Part of Riley's Ride may involve participation in the Man from Snowy River Re-Enactment and Street Parade. Horses

must either be shod or have firm fitting boots. Horses are not permitted to be bare hooved. CRUPPERS or REAR BREECHING ARE MANDATORY.

You will be travelling on average about 30km a day. You can expect to spend between 5 and 8 hours in the saddle. Riders are broken into groups of about 8 to 10 for most stages of the ride, but your horse does also need to be able to be managed properly in large group situations.

### **DISCOUNTED WRISTBANDS:**

We encourage Riley's riders to stay and enjoy everything else the MFSRBF has to offer. Should you stay for the duration of the festival, you will be offered a discounted wristband. The discount is aligned with Challenge eventers 50% off ticket purchase price. The number of discounted wristbands cannot exceed the number of riders/support people on your form. and will be handed out when you check-in at Tom Groggin Station on the Monday of the ride. Please note – the wristband will also allow entry, for participating support person, into the Re-enactment on the Friday of the ride.

Anyone who has not pre-purchased a wristband will be able to buy their wristband at the gate price when they arrive at the festival.

Participants are welcome to arrive in Corryong on the Saturday or Sunday prior to the ride. If you are leaving your vehicle & float in Corryong and travelling on to Tom Groggin Station with another participant, you will receive your vehicle sticker on arrival at the designated Riley's Ride Camping Area. You **MUST** have a sticker to have your vehicle in this area.

### **VEST & MERCHANDISE:**

All riders are presented with a commemorative softshell vest as part of the ride. There is little to no scope to swap vests as we only order what we know we will need, so please consider this when ordering your vest size. Further merchandise is available for you and your support person via the prepaid merchandise form that will be sent out prior to the ride.

### **FIRST AID, VET AND FARRIER:**

The Riley's Ride crew carry some first aid supplies and veterinary services are available on a user pays basis. Many riders like to have a basic first aid kit, for both horse and human, which they are familiar with. We are fortunate enough to have qualified First Aid Crew, some of whom will be riding and some of whom will be on the ground in camp. We may also be fortunate enough to have a vet ride with the group.

Horses must be sound and must be shod prior to arriving on the Monday. If not shod, horse boots must be used and spares carried. Farrier services are also offered on the ride and can be utilised on a user pays basis. You should not, however, arrive with a horse that will need to be re-shod during the ride.

Vet check will occur on arrival, including simple trot out with cropper and breast plate on. Unsound horses will be vetted out.

### **HORSE FEED:**

The Riley's Ride crew will provide you with 1 bag of feed per rider plus 1 bag of chaff, which is adequate for most horses' needs. The feed available for the 2027 ride will be confirmed in November 2026. Riders can bring their own feed but due to strict guidelines which must be adhered to, no whole grain feeds are permitted. Riders are not permitted to bring their own hay due to the potential for weed introduction onto the private properties that we camp on and travel through. You are permitted to bring commercial, grain free horse feeds and good quality seed free chaff as a bulk, if you feel your horse will need it. More information about feed allocation will be provided closer to the ride. The Riley's Ride crew, who have done this ride many times, are confident in the feed

allocation being sufficient. A fit horse will be well maintained on this amount of feed across the 4 days with ground feed in abundance along the trail.

### **CONDITIONS:**

#### **• YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN HORSE**

- All riders and support person must be 18 years or over.
- All riders must have full ambulance cover.
- Riders are to obey designated trail guides in all instances for the safety of all.
- Horses and riders should be accustomed to mountain trail riding and riding in a large group.
- Each rider is responsible for their horse, including injuries incurred to either themselves or their horse and will be responsible for any costs associated with treatment or transport
- Riders must ensure that their horse is fit and educated to a standard which makes them capable of handling the terrain and stresses of group riding in mountainous terrain and in wide open spaces.
- All horses are to be enclosed at night within an electric yard or secure panel yard supplied by the rider and hobbled or tethered if required.
- All riders are responsible for their own camping gear and will need to bring their own plates, mugs, cutlery, chair etc.
- All rubbish is to be deposited at the catering tent for removal. Under no circumstances is litter to be left where you have camped.
- All riders must have their own back up vehicle and driver as a support person.
- You are permitted to share a backup person with another rider.
- Family and friends cannot camp with Rileys ride group.
- All equipment is to be loaded prior to breaking camp.
- Absolutely no arrivals at Tom Groggin Station prior to the designated time on the Monday.
- It is recommended that horses are fully vaccinated prior to participating in the ride. Check with your local vet for more details.
- All horses must be sound and shod, either with horseshoes or horse boots
- No alcohol is to be consumed whilst riding or attending to horses.
- No stallions permitted.
- No grain feed or hay is to be taken on the ride.
- Riders must have appropriate riding attire.
- The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival reserves the right to refuse an entry without explanation.
- \$300 Deposit invoiced if selected due by 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Once online Application Forms have been submitted, all other refunds are as per conditions set out above
- NO pets permitted.
- No caravans

### **SUPPLIES:**

#### **RIDER**

- Camping arrangements and gear – tent, swag, folding chair, plate, mug, eating utensils, tea-towels, torch etc.
- Horse gear including hobbles if required, rug, nosebag (optional), buckets, electric fencing etc.
- Saddle, bridle, breastplate, crupper and saddle bag/s.

- Waterproof & warm riding apparel – weather can be extreme and can dramatically change very suddenly •  
Sunscreen & ChapStick
- Smokers must consider, other riders and fire danger and retain butts in a suitable receptacle
- Drinks – cans where possible, bottled wine permitted
- Drink bottle holder to attach to saddle – you will be supplied with an aluminium drink bottle.
  - NOTE – Plastic disposable water bottles are NOT allowed in the National Park.
- Bring a great sense of adventure and respect for the Australian Bush and fellow riders.

### **YOU WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH THE FOLLOWING**

- All meals (for riders & support crew) from Monday evening to Friday lunch will be provided (please note, Monday lunch is not provided)
- 1 x Bag of suitable Feed & 1 x bag of Chaff to each rider
- Toilet and shower facilities at each camp
- Drinking water for yourself & your horse at each camp
- Entertainment
- High quality coordination of ride and the camping sites.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT NONE OF THE CAMPSITES ARE POWERED

### **MORE INFO:**

Riley's Ride

The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival PO

Box 144, CORRYONG VIC 3707

[rileysride@bushfestival.com.au](mailto:rileysride@bushfestival.com.au)

## **ITINERARY**

### **MONDAY 5TH APRIL**

#### **ARRIVE Tom Groggin Station**

Signs will be in place prior to and at Tom Groggin Station to direct those traveling under their own steam down to the campground. Riley's Ride Crew will be arriving from around midday, and it is best for you to plan to arrive between 12:00pm and 3:00pm please let the RR co Ordinator know if you are going to arrive later than 4 pm. No riding into Tom Groggin Camp, horses to be floated in. Bio security forms to be presented on arrival, no form No admission

**Lunch is NOT provided on this day, please plan to take something with you.**

After setting up camp we ask that you present your horse in full gear for a Vet check. There is a wonderful dinner to look forward to (which is provided by our catering crew) and formal introductions around the campfire. It would be appreciated if you could plan to gather at the tent with your chair and eating utensils etc by 5:00pm (nibbles are provided from about 4:00pm) so that we can begin the introduction and information sharing process.

### **TUESDAY 6TH APRIL DAY**

**ONE**

After breakfast, riders will break into smaller groups and ride out to the site where Jack Riley's hut once stood. Riders will then continue through the bush to the Buckwong Creek where you will meet the catering team for lunch. Don't forget to pack your mug in your saddle bag for a cup of tea. After lunch, riders will again break into small groups to return to Tom Groggin Station. Support crew will not have to move camp on this day, so can plan to relax or even throw a fishing line in. They will need to inform catering if they wish to join you for lunch at the Buckwong or if they will be having lunch at camp. This is so our caterers can cater properly. This is a relatively easy day to allow your horse to settle in whilst you enjoy having a look around the Tom Groggin area. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT YOU WILL HAVE A RIVER CROSSING AS SOON AS YOU RIDE OUT OF CAMP. Please aim to have your horse accustomed to water, especially flowing water. This will help to keep everyone safe and to prevent delays.

## **WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

### **DAY TWO**

After breakfast, riders need to collect their lunch and pack it in their saddle bags. Catering are unable to follow us to Surveyor's Creek where Jack Riley passed away. Don't forget your mug as the billy is sure to be boiled. You will need to make sure all your camping equipment is packed ready for transportation to the next campsite by the support crew. Riders will be placed in designated groups to follow Harrington's Track over the Hermit Mountain. The country is steep and rough with some wonderful views. Please consider your horse and take plenty of rest stops over the day so that you can both relax at the end of the day. Don't forget your breastplate and crupper for the steep sections of the Hermit Mountain. After lunch you will continue along Harrington's Track through to Bunroy.

***There is an element of risk involved. Please consider the capabilities of both you and your horse.***

We camp at Whitsed's Bunroy Hut and enjoy a night of entertainment. A great night to let your hair down, kick up your heels and have a fireside dance.

## **THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

### **DAY THREE**

We break into small groups again to ride out of Bunroy. There are once again steep sections of trail on this day. We camp at "Damms farm" in the Biggara Valley. We have many great awards to present in the evening. No uninvited guests can attend so if you wish to include anyone for this evening you must make arrangements with the RR Manager/Coordinator prior to the ride.

***Day 3 and Day 4 may vary due to a change in camping arrangements***

## **FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

### **DAY FOUR**

We ride to the Man from Snowy River Re-enactment in the Thowgla Valley. There is a gradual, winding climb to McCormack's Gap to Fenwick farm where the re-enactment is held. Lunch will be at the Re-enactment. We then ride into Corryong to the cemetery for a graveside tribute to Jack Riley and acknowledgement of the riders. Following this we will make our way to Riley's Ride Camping area, Strzelecki Way, Corryong. The Ride Crew will direct camping spots in the Riley camp area to ensure an organised camp. Rileys Riders will be given a car sticker to enter the camp site. Many riders chose to stay for the festival.

## **SATURDAY 10TH APRIL**

### **STREET PARADE - OPTIONAL**

Riders will be asked to assemble at the Riley's Ride camp area, to ride by 9:45am. We will then ride along Strzelecki Way to Donaldson Street in parade formation and await the call into parade. Following the street parade, we will ride a designated route back to the Riley's Ride Camping area

Many riders stay for the festival. The designated RR camping area is within the Competitors Camping area on Strzelecki Way, for those wishing to stay and camp with their horses. You need a festival pass and car sticker to take advantage of this area. Many of the Riders will gather near the bar and food vendors to catch up with past riders, enjoy the Festival entertainment and have dinner.

This is the end of the ride – but definitely not the end of the entertainment and action – as the Challenge to find the *Modern Man from Snowy River* has just begun, so you have two more days of fabulous horse action, bush poetry, art, and photography and much more to enjoy. A visit to the Man from Snowy River Museum is also well worth the effort whilst you're in town.

*Please Note: the above itinerary may be altered due to unpredictable weather conditions and/or a change of program to the Re-Enactment. This itinerary is provided as a guide only.*